

Attorney Docket No. 13DV-12817 (07783-0046)
Application No. 09/613,162

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 31-35 are pending in the Application, claims 13-30 having been canceled without prejudice in Applicant's response submitted on February 26, 2003. This amendment amends the claims to places them in an improved condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended to clarify the well-known geometric configuration of sheets as a plane. The sheets are provided with fibers running bi-directionally in the plane of the sheet and not in the thickness direction so as to project out of the plane of the sheet. Support for this amendment may be found in Figs. 2 and 3 and in the specification at page 7, lines 29-30 and page 10, lines 21-30.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to be consistent with claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the step of layering sheets to form the tube sheet clamp include sheets whose bi-directionally oriented fibers lie within the plane of the sheets. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at page 8, line 25 -page 9 line 4 and Figs. 2 and 3.

Claim 8 has been amended to claim that the filler material between the top and bottom layers may include random fiber mat, as long as the ply layers in the tube clamp adjacent to the tube lie within the plane of the sheets so as not to expose fiber. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification at page 9, lines 14-30.

New claims 31-35 simply claim the form of the fiber in the sheets forming the top and bottom layers of claim 6 as either unidirectional or woven. Support for these claims may be found in the specification at page 9, lines 5-10.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the Application based on this amendment. No new matter is included in this amendment. As a result of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 and newly added claims 31-35 more clearly define the invention. As the claims are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the applied art, Applicants request allowance of claims 1-12 and 31-35.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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